

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am a school nurse in Stafford Springs. I am writing to express my concerns over Bill 5303. I realize this protest may be late as I was just informed of the proposed bill yesterday.

According to Valeant, the manufacturer of Diastat (Diazepam rectal gel), Diazepam rectal gel should only be administered by caregivers who, in the opinion of the prescribing physician, (1) can identify the difference between cluster of seizures (and/or the events that precipitate the onset of seizures) from ordinary seizure activity, (2) are judged to be able to use product as instructed, (3) understand which seizures may or may not be treated with diazepam rectal gel, and (4) monitor the effect of diazepam rectal gel and know when to seek professional medical help (2007).

The administration of rectal valium requires active patient monitoring, something that very few if any teachers, or other staff have the time or more importantly, the qualifications to do. The person who administers the medication needs to monitor the child's respiratory status until the parent can pick up or the emergency responders arrive.

I have seen a lot of recent legislation here and in other states that are written with the presumption that it is what's best for children. Parents fear their child will suffer significant consequences if their child's special medical needs go unaddressed because there is no school nurse in the building. It would seem to me that all children would be better served by focusing on the bigger picture by working to assure that every school has a highly qualified nurse to oversee every child's well being. High risk medications like rectal valium, insulin, glucagon etc. should not be delegated to school staff who have no medical training in patient assessment. Teachers are highly qualified individuals in education not nursing. If they make an error, the cost of the ensuing law suit will far outweigh the cost of having a nurse in the school.

Please do not allow this bill to go forward. I urge you to consider the bigger picture and think of all of Connecticut's school children.

Thank you,

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